

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 27 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 6th July 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjīvi"	Barāhanagar ...	4,000	
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ...	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhawānīpore ...	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ...	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ...	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore.	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh ...	658	27th June 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harinābhi ...	.....	28th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ...	.....
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāliganj, Calcutta ...	.....	3rd July 1878.
14	"Bardwan Prachārikā"	Burdwan ...	165	
15	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	.....	2nd ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	400	30th June 1878.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	1,168	28th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly ...	200	3rd July 1878.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca ...	300	29th June 1878.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	.....	26th ditto.
21	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	28th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	235	28th ditto.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rungpore ...	250	
24	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah ...	516	30th ditto.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ...	.....	1st July 1878.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ...	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto ...	5,500	29th June 1878.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta	700	1st July 1878.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta ...	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta ...	550	29th June to 4th July 1878.
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	.....	29th " to 5th ditto.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	625	28th June to 1st, 3rd & 4th July 1878.
33	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto ...	.....	1st to 5th July 1878.
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ...	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakarī"	Bethar, Howrah ...	300	30th June 1878.
36	"Murshidabad Patrikā"	Berhampore ...	.....	28th ditto.
37	"Burrisal Vartābaha"	Burrisal ...	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	400	29th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhbār-ul-Akhiār"	Mozufferpore ...	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna ...	509	3rd July 1878.
PERSIAN.				
41	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta ...	250	28th June 1878.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
June 26th, 1878.

1. As in some measure calculated to overcome the difficulty of procuring the means of livelihood among the large and increasing population of Bengal, the *Hindu Ranjiká* suggests the formation of joint stock companies.

Joint stock companies recommended as a help to procure means of livelihood for Bengalis.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 27th, 1878.

2. THE *Bhārat Mihir* says that the Collector of Mymensingh, having misconstrued the recent circular of Government, that all silver coins issued prior

Circular for the recall of old silver coins.

to the 1st September 1835 should cease to be legal tender from the 1st June 1878, has given out that no silver coins bearing the device of the head of William IV will be henceforth considered as legal tender. This order has created great agitation here. Capitalists and tradesmen are thrown into the greatest state of excitement. So far as we understand it, the Collector's interpretation of the circular is erroneous; as will be seen from Act XVII of 1835, and the different dates and descriptions of coining. We are unable to state what construction has been placed on the circular in other Collectorates, but would recommend our officials, if they have any doubt in the matter, to apply to Government for a clear and concise meaning of the circular before they carry out its provisions.

BHARAT MIHIR.

3. The *Bhārat Mihir* notices that the poor only will suffer from the license tax, and many of them will be obliged to close their shops within the next six months.

The License Tax.

BHARAT MIHIR.

4. The same paper, in announcing the revival of the *Meherpur* murder case, says that it was placed for trial before the Joint-Magistrate Mr. Anderson;

Revival of the Meherpur murder case and Mr. Stevens.

but whether because he, like a good Judge, made no distinction between European and Native, or from any other cause, Mr. Stevens, the Magistrate of Krishnagar, has transferred the case to his own file. The inhabitants of Krishnagar were very fortunate when Mr. Stevens was removed there. We have seen Mr. Anderson a long time in Mymensingh; and comparing his natural disposition with his mode of doing business, we can without hesitation pronounce him a bright example to the present Magistrates. We have become doubtful as to the result of the *Meherpur* case, since it has been taken out of Mr. Anderson's hands.

BHARAT
SANSKÁRAK,
June 28th, 1878.

5. The *Bhārat Sanskarak* takes the same notice as the *Sádháraní* does, in No. 7 of last week's report, of the difficulty Bábu *Rajánikánta* has in getting his

The ill-effects of the Press Act.

work on the Sepoy Mutiny completed by the Printer. The Editor of this paper recommends the Bábu to consult the Press Commissioner on the matter, after which there will be nothing to fear; for the work must be acknowledged to be an ornament to Bengali Literature.

BHARAT
SANSKÁRAK.

6. The *Bhārat Sanskarak* from the first objected to the separation of Assam from Bengal, and hopes the re-amalgamation of the provinces will be carried out. It

The re-amalgamation of Assam with Bengal.

has now, after a trial of four years, become fully apparent that none of the objects contemplated by the separation have been realized. No change has been made in the judicial administration. In revenue matters, appeals that used to be preferred to the Board are presented to the Chief Commissioner, and one person now decides matters that were submitted to the judgment of five. Education has declined. The Inspector of Schools is Registrar-General also. It must be admitted that Assam has rather retrograded than advanced since the separation in almost every department. Government has now placed Assam under a new Chief Commissioner, Mr. Bayley, to test how far the province will benefit under his administration. But our desire is that Government should consult economy and frugality, and re-unite Assam with Bengal.

7. The *Murshidábád Patriká* refers to the report that the coins bearing the effigy of William IV are to be recalled, and says that, in a short time, none but coins bearing the inscription of Victoria Empress will remain in circulation. In some cases, too, pice that are worn out by use, if brought into one district from another, are of no value. We have been placing this question before the authorities for the last ten or twelve years; and trust that in these times of rapid locomotion, when districts are brought closer together, this anomaly may be done away with; and it may be proclaimed by beat of drum and through the newspapers that persons refusing to take such copper coin will be punished. We repeat our complaint and trust that Government will do something to mend the matter.

MURSHIDÁBÁD
PATRIKÁ,
June 28th, 1878.

8. The *Murshidábád Patriká* makes almost the same observations as the *Som Prakásh* in paragraph 14 of our report of the week ending 22nd June does, with reference to the appointment of a Press Commissioner, the fitness of Mr. Lethbridge for the post, and the telegram concession; and also prays like its contemporary for the Government reports and advertisements; and trusts that the Government Weekly Report on the spirit of the Press and *Bengali* and *Calcutta Gazettes* be given in exchange for each native paper.

MURSHIDÁBÁD
PATRIKÁ,

9. The *Sangbád Prabhákara* says that the Lieutenant-Governor has, in mitigating the sentence passed on Rájá Golakéndranáráyana Ráya, endeared himself to all Bengalis. Mr. Eden has by this act of mercy acquired endless fame for himself.

SANGBÁD
PRABHAKARA,
June 29th, 1878.

10. The *Hindu Hitaishini* says that every one is delighted at the appointment of such a person of undoubted ability as Mr. Lethbridge to the office of Press Commissioner, and at his having obtained for the native newspapers the same concessions as to telegrams as the English papers. He has thus shown great interest in the Native Press, for which we are exceedingly thankful. Mr. Lethbridge would supply a great want if he could remove the invidious distinction of giving the Government Reports, &c., to some Editors and not to all of the Native Press. We have no means of learning the objects and views of Government, and depend for our knowledge of them on the opinions of the English papers; which we adopt and circulate, and sometimes, as might be expected, fall into error. We shall be most happy to get the Government reports and news on the same terms as the English newspapers.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
June 29th, 1878.

11. The *Dacca Prakásh* refers with approbation to the public meeting held in Calcutta to petition Parliament against the license tax, and endorses the article which appeared as paragraph 16 of the last Report.

DACCA PRAKASH
June 30th, 1878.

12. The same paper referring to the recent resolution of the Government of India to supply the Vernacular Press with telegraphic messages, says that, for this favour, doubtless Government and the Press Commissioner deserve our thanks. Though we do not think that the majority of the Vernacular Papers will take advantage of this resolution, because most of them are weekly journals, and their finances are not in a condition to allow of their spending money in telegraphic messages. Even if able, the consideration that these messages are always available through the English daily papers, would prevent them from using the privilege now accorded. If Government really desires the well-being of the Vernacular Press, and is inclined to adopt measures conducive to that end, it should supply the Native Papers with telegraphic messages free of cost. Government advertisements, similar to those supplied to the *Exchange Gazette* and other papers, should be sent to them. They should also be furnished with the Weekly Report on the spirit of the Native Press as

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 30th, 1878.

before, that Editors might see whether their articles have been correctly translated. He is glad to learn that natives will be appointed under the Press Commissioner to examine the papers and bring to his notice anything that might be written against Government. This is as it should be. Those to whom the vernaculars is a foreign tongue are apt to confuse things; but there is no likelihood of such a thing happening with natives.

SAHACHAR,
July 1st, 1878.

13. The *Sahachara*, in taking the opportunity to express its thanks to Mr. Lethbridge for the concession he has obtained from the Government of India, to allow

The Press Commissioner.
the Native Press the same privilege in respect of telegrams as the English papers have, has one more favour to ask, namely, that the Native Papers also be allowed to have the Government papers and reports to which, being published at the expense of the public, we may lay claim; but for the present we waive that claim. Government has by the passing of the Press Act established a distinction between the Native and English languages; for some things that might appear in English are made penal in the vernacular. We therefore present ourselves as suppliants, and beseech the Press Commissioner to secure for us the favour now sought. We take this occasion to submit the following remarks for the information of Mr. Lethbridge. These reports were occasionally received by all the newspapers during the times of Sir William Grey and Sir George Campbell; but Sir Richard Temple stopped the practice. Petitions were presented to him on the subject. The Press Act was not then in existence, and they urged that they had a right to receive the provincial reports, but Sir Richard paid no heed to their request. Sir Ashley Eden (alas! he whom we delighted to call *our* Mr. Eden), soon after he came, assumed so forbidding an attitude, that none of the Editors had either the desire or the courage to present a petition to him. Where was the necessity of submitting to reproach and disgrace? Convinced that Mr. Lethbridge wishes our papers well, we have made bold to ask him for the above-named concession. Lord Lytton is a great man, and would not give any annoyance without a cause. We know, too, that the old civilian class fire up when they see Bengalis agitating political matters; but not so those who, having inhaled the air of England, come out to administer the affairs of this country. As Napoleon advised his wife Josephine, pleading for the life of a Prince, to attend to her proper work and ply the needle, so does Mr. Eden treat us in political questions. We therefore entreat the Viceroy and the Press Commissioner to act independently in matters connected with the Press; for they well know, if Native Editors have the reports before them, they are not likely to fall into error; and the Governor-General cannot think that writers wilfully write what is false. He has surely understood that they support the British administration. We therefore pray that equal advantages be accorded to the English and Native Press in regard, not only to the Reports of Bengal, but of all the Provinces. We agree with the *Hindu Patriot* that there would have been no necessity for the Press Act, had all the papers from the first been treated alike. Many abuses have been heaped on the heads of the vernacular newspapers; yet we may boldly affirm that history and future generations will judge us aright; we have had many errors; but Native Editors scarcely derive any profit from their papers; in this respect they are poor; they carry on the work merely for the good of the country as was proudly stated by the *Bhārat Mihir*. We have said that the Native Editors are beggars, but they beg not from selfish motives. We ask Mr. Lethbridge to grant this prayer, and let justice be meted out to all the native papers and history will not forget him.

SAHACHAR.

14. The *Sahachara*, writing of the right of occupancy, says that almost all the Native Papers have said that, unless cultivators have a permanent right, they will not exert themselves for the real improvement of the soil; but the landlords, as well as the tenants' interests ought to be regarded. He refers to the remarks

Occupancy rights of tenants.

noticed in our Report of last week, respecting the consequences of *mahájans* purchasing the whole of the holdings and sub-letting them to tenants whose rights of occupancy will in turn become permanent. The objection is important, and worthy the attention of the Legislature. The *mahájan* will, in such cases, form a middle class; and all well-wishers of the country will unite in the opinion that there should be no class intervening between the landlord and the tenant. The system of *patni*, *darpatni*, and *sepatni* settlements is a monstrous evil in the country, and leaves the tenant foodless wherever it exists to any extent, as in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. But the question arises whether the fears of the landlords will be realized, and whether the *mahájans* will truly in a short time purchase the rights of occupancy. The tenants of Eastern Bengal, Jessore, and the 24-Pergunnahs and Nuddea are in so prosperous a condition that they have scarcely any need of incurring debt. It appears, from the efforts made by the *zamindárs* to purchase the right, that these tenants, who are in full enjoyment of it, have a great advantage; and the records of the courts, in cases for the increase of rent, show with what perseverance these tenants have held their own: so that there is no fear of the *mahájans* being able speedily to purchase all the rights. We would urge upon Government nevertheless to make wider investigations before they act in the matter. If the *mahájans* have the power to purchase the occupancy right, the proposed law will turn out useless.

15. The *Sahachara*, after various observations on the British constitution, and the mode of imposing taxes, adds that, during Lord Mayo's rule, the

The License Tax.

income tax was on one occasion increased in the course of the financial year on Sir John Strachey's advice, on the plea that there was an error in the Budget, and the amount at first required was found insufficient to meet the wants of Government, and the public paid the increased rate without any objection. Sir Richard Temple, however, on his return from England, showed that instead of the sum being insufficient, there was a surplus. Had this happened in England, Sir John Strachey would not have been allowed to enter Government House again; and this Sir John Strachey is up to this time our Financial Minister. The Indian Government and its Councillors are responsible to Parliament only in name, not practically. At the same time, where the people have no voice, and the administrators are responsible only to God and history, everything should be proceeded with cautiously, and it is therefore we ask the Government to consider the distresses which have begun to be felt in connection with the license tax. We have a great many petty dealers amongst us, whose income is very small; some are both cultivators and dealers, and upon them the provisions of the law are very hard. In connection with the levying of the tax, there is much disorder and unnecessary annoyance to individuals. Though this could be in a great manner alleviated if the Collectors were careful; but the real evil will be removed by nothing. As in nature a number of small streams go to make up large rivers, so with trade. Let the petty dealers be destroyed and the merchants will suffer, and the trade of the country will be injured. The Government has committed an error in imposing a license tax on the petty dealers. The whole country cried out against it. Sir John Strachey may explain away the matter, by saying to Lord Lytton, "the people must be expected to object when they have to pay." This is true, but if this plea is to prevail in every case, the objections of the subjects will go for nothing, whilst their very blood is sucked up. All those, who are well acquainted with the state of this country, agree in saying that this license tax ought to be removed. If private inquiries were made of the Collectors, our statements would be found correct. In conclusion, we would tell the

SAHACHAR,
July 1st, 1878.

Government that it would be no disgrace to give up a project against which public opinion was unanimous, whilst to do so would elicit the commendation of the people of the land. It is much to be regretted that in such matters our administrators make allusions to power and prestige.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 1st, 1878.

16. The *Soma Prakásh*, referring to the office of Press Commissioner conferred on Mr. Lethbridge, says that this post may be said to have been in existence since the 1st of April 1877; when any news, the publication of which would not be injurious to Government, was sent to the Private Secretary and by him to Mr. Lethbridge, who in his turn distributed it among the English papers. This arrangement was so secretly carried out that scarcely any one was aware of it. The writer proceeds to give his opinion of the present character of the work of the Press Commissioner. First, he will continue to give news as hitherto; secondly, the fate of the Bengali papers are in a manner placed in his hands; thirdly, he has been entrusted with the duty of deciding upon the merits of the native papers and rewarding or punishing accordingly. For this duty the Editor does not consider him fit on account of his ignorance of some, and imperfect acquaintance of others, of the languages in which the papers are issued. We are sure he will take in good part the following friendly advice which we venture to tender him. He should have a body of expert translators, who should be natives of the country, and each one well educated. In conclusion, we have a few questions to put to Government. The Press Commissioner has been appointed; but of what crime have the native newspapers been guilty that they should not have the same favours conferred on them as the English newspapers have, without even soliciting them? Would it not be an act of magnanimity on the part of Government if it were to place at our disposal the same intelligence which it gives the English Press? We are excessively pained and hurt at this conduct on the part of Government. The condescension, which we solicit, would save us from falling into error when writing of the administration of our rulers. We have to say a few words also to Mr. Eden, who is bent, in a manner, on exterminating the Bengali language; and if his views were carried out, we should not much longer be allowed to converse in our mother-tongue. We cannot assign any reason for this. We have never written against him even by mistake; on the contrary, we have, times without number, eulogized him in our columns; but all to no purpose. We are willing to submit the files of our paper from its commencement to the present time for inspection; and if any one article can be pointed out therein in which we have censured him, or excited discontent towards Government, we are ready to suffer any punishment that may be inflicted on us.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1878.

17. This paper, continuing its remarks on the epidemic fever in Burdwan, says that the extensive cultivation of paddy in Bengal has been assigned as one of the causes of the terrific fever. Those who support this theory assert that, as paddy requires much water, the land is enclosed by embankments of earth, so that about half a cubit of water is retained for the space of about two or three months; where the decay of rubbish and vegetable matter takes place and produces fever. Now, in all probability paddy has been produced in Bengal ever since man began to dwell in the land; but at no time did fever rage to so wide an extent as at present. Burdwan, too, has a large paddy cultivation; but ten years back the very name of fever was not known here. Many admit that, in proportion as the population of Bengal has increased, and the export of corn to other countries become larger, so has the cultivation of paddy become more extensive: also that the virulence of the epidemic fever has been decreasing in Hooghly, Burdwan, and other zillahs. Others again assert that the fever has increased in rigour in places bordering

on paddy lands. We have, however, seen villages surrounded by it free from fever; whilst villages adjoining the city, where no paddy lands exist, have been subjected to its severest attacks; and it has been difficult to get persons to remove the dead bodies for fear of contagion. If paddy cultivation be the cause of fever, the above state of affairs seems rather inconsistent.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* professes to know somewhat of the duties that are required of the different grades of police officers; but admits it cannot understand what the Assistant Superintendent of Police has to do. The investigation of cases is committed to Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, so that he has nothing to do with that; nor can it be taken for granted that he manages the Superintendent's duties while that officer is in the mofusil. Where then is the need of having so highly paid and useless an officer? But owing to recent circumstances, we have almost lost faith in the existence of various officers in this district. Many dacoities and highway robberies are committed. But who can be surprised at this. The police are unable of themselves to cope with these characters. A month has elapsed since we agitated the matter, and nothing has been done, and the offenders in the case we referred to have not been apprehended. There were three dacoities during the past two months, and nothing has been done by the police; the same is the case with the other three highway robberies in the month of May last. There was a case of poisoning travellers and a murder during the past two months, the latter during June, and nothing has been done. Not to have succeeded in tracing out the culprits in either of the above cases does not speak well of the police, whose chief duty is to preserve the peace.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1878.

19. The *Behar Bandhu* says that, as the mercantile profession had risen in estimation under the English administration, so it is now on the decline, owing to the conduct of the *bipáris* or opium traders. It behoves Government to take the matter into its consideration and stop the opium auction sales, fix a price and sell it absolutely; otherwise much injury will ensue; for the country will be overrun with spurious *bipáris*, and be literally trodden under foot: this will lead to the ruin of the great *bipáris*, and eventually to that of the Government opium transactions, necessitating the opening of another loan, when no Hindustani will be found to come forward and tender for it.

BEHAR BANDHU,
July 8th, 1878.

EDUCATION.

20. Writing of Mr. Garrett's proposal, the *Murshidábád Pratinidhi* remarks that, although the Bengali youth, after receiving a University education and obtaining degrees, are considered in our society as well educated, yet in fact they are not so. The evil custom of child-marriage, so long as it is permitted to continue, will prove an obstacle to advanced education. We can testify to having heard from old and experienced teachers, that child-marriage has brought down many a promising pupil and served to crush out a once prosperous career. The perseverance, intellect, mental faculties and ability have become perceptibly reduced; showing that this kind of marriage is a thorn in the side of good education. Mr. Garrett's proposal will serve to remove such obstacles to a great extent; and when people come to have a real and an ardent desire for sound education, this pernicious custom of early marriages will gradually lose its hold on them. The plan will not succeed in the North-West or in Behar; because the people there have not as yet learnt to appreciate education at its true worth, nor do they love it. In the above places, the abolition of early or child-marriage would work evil; whereas here

MURSHIDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
June 28th, 1878.

it would be productive of immense good ; and we hope therefore that the District School Committees will support Mr. Garrett. If his proposal be carried out, girls also would have more time for finishing their studies. So that not only will the native boys, but girls likewise, benefit ; because these latter, in consequence of being given in marriage at so early an age as ten or twelve, are obliged to leave off learning long before their education is complete. In our opinion our country and society will derive great benefit, if Mr. Garrett's proposal be carried out into practice ; and our fellow countrymen will gradually rise step by step on the ladder of improvement.

BHARAT
SANSKRAT,
June 28th, 1878.

21. The *Bhārat Sanskārak* is glad to see that Government has recently discovered a new and easy method for arousing the energy of the students in the Sanskrita *toles*, who were hitherto neglected. They will now have the same privileges as the pupils of the Sanskrita College in obtaining various honorary titles of literary distinction after passing certain examinations. The Resolution of Government, embodying these views, has served to resuscitate the drooping prospects of Sanskrit lore ; which, from becoming gradually less attractive, was in danger of becoming extinct. The Sanskrita College, which is the chief seat of learning of that ancient language, was losing all its energy through the great influence the English language was exercising within its walls. Though the Sanskrita *toles* are in no flourishing state, owing to the want of Government encouragement, yet the Sanskrita College pupils never could vie with their students in point of proficiency and critical knowledge. Had Government given an earlier stimulus to places such as these *toles*, there would have been hope of much fruit. There is not the least doubt that by throwing open the door of competition to *toles*, other schools, and private students, a great stimulus will be given to Sanskrita learning, and for this we bestow every blessing on the Hon'ble Sir Ashley Eden and Mr. Croft. We have, however, a few suggestions to offer for consideration—1st, let the literary titles, such as *Vidyābhūshana*, *Vidyāsāgara*, &c., now given by the *toles* be rescinded, or some distinction made between the titles given by the *toles* and those by the Sanskrita College ; 2nd, names of the successful competitors should be gazetted ; 3rd, titles, such as *Mahārājā*, *Rājā*, *Rāyā Bahādur*, &c., are conferred on men of wealth and opulence ; but the poor brahmins and pandits, who obtain their titles from the college, should have some money allotted to each, so as to enable them to have a means of livelihood.

22. The *Murshidābād Patrikā* remarks that those, who show themselves ready to interfere with the social customs of the natives, know nothing of the internal state of the country. The swift running stream will ultimately lose its strength and dry up, but if impeded when at its height, it will break over the obstacle and spread over the whole country. We do not wish to enter into any argument, nor to prove why, in our estimation, such interference is not desirable ; and many progressionists may regard us as thorns of society. Let that be ; we say that the Director has given a just reply to Mr. Garrett's proposal, viz. that the practice will die out in space of time and needs no application of force. It would be undesirable to add to the Penal Code a provision constituting child-marriage a penal offence ; it would also not be opportune at this time to prohibit married students from appearing at the Entrance Examination, for high education would be impeded. Another evil would be the giving away of girls to unworthy bridegrooms. The English should not interfere in religious matters ; and among Bengalis all our affairs are connected with religion. If Government has learnt no lesson from its meddling with widow marriage, it will interfere here

MURSHIDABAD
PRATIKAR,
June 28th, 1878.

Interference of Government with the social customs of the country or child-marriage.

also, and the country will be flooded with idiocy and distress. We are no advocates of child-marriage; but would prefer to see the custom die out of itself, as it has diminished a good deal already. Many of our newspapers have pointed out the ills that may arise from the prohibition of child-marriage, whilst those that have been favourable to the proposal have not failed to point out some evils that may arise. Mr. Garrett's proposal is simply ridiculous. There are many women, as in America, who detest men; so there are men who dislike women, to which latter class we believe Mr. Garrett belongs; for he has not married yet; and he desires to bring the youth of India to his own way of thinking.

23. The *Hindu Hitaishini*, writing of Mr. Garrett's recent proposal,

HINDU HITAISHINI,
June 29th, 1878.

Child-marriage.

after observations on the different opinions entertained, respecting the propriety of the measure, asks, Can it be calculated how many pupils must be refused admittance to Entrance examinations before this evil practice of early marriage abates; or how many respectable families will, with a view to support Mr. Garrett's proposal, consent without hesitation to allow their marriageable daughters to continue unmarried at home? 90 per cent. of the girls of India reach the age of puberty when they are 13 or 14 years old. This fact alone, in reference to climatic and corporeal circumstances, will suffice for all reasoning. Can the injunctions of the *Shastras* be ignored; whereby a parent is considered guilty if he allow a daughter to remain in the house unmarried after having attained puberty? Consequently, if 4 or 5 per cent. of the boys are prevented from marrying below the age of 20, what remedy have our theorists at hand to prevent girls of 12 or 13 years of age becoming mothers? If, however, Hindus are content to set at naught the *Shástras* and the counsels of reason, and to despise the taunts, shame, and fear of society, and in lieu thereof to accept the words of Mr. Garrett and his stimulators as more weighty and solemn than the *Vedas*, then the object in view will surely be fulfilled. Some of the District Committees have already begun to point out the faults of early marriage; but these persons will not be forthcoming when wanted. We are no advocates for child-marriage, nor for boys marrying under the age of 20: our *Ayurvéda Shastras* do not encourage the early marriage of males. Undisputed reason and example, however, counsel the marriage of females prior to their attaining the age of puberty. We do not for ourselves wish to disregard this rule, nor do we think it ought to be set aside. Is it at all proper to have recourse to compulsion to break down in one day a custom that has been practised for a long time? Does any really wise person wish to place in chains of iron that which can be accomplished without such a process and at the will of the parties concerned? It is a satisfaction indeed to learn that all the District Committees do not approve of Mr. Garrett's proposal.

24. The *Grámvartá Prakáshiká* remarks that every nation on the globe is interested in the preservation and improvement of Sanskrita literature, and

GRAMVARTÁ
PRAKASHIKÁ,
July 3rd, 1878.

Opinion on the recent Government Resolution as to Sanskrit titles.

the English Government has done much to secure this end, though not with complete success. The reason is obvious; in the Sanskrita College, English has a preference over Sanskrita; and whether the latter should continue to be a subject of examination in the University is still undecided. Therefore it is that Mr. Croft's proposal at this time is very laudable, and if the plan, as it appears in the Resolution, is carried out in its integrity, there is no doubt it will promote the advancement of the language and the best interests of the students. The competitive examinations referred to will prove of universal benefit; since really diligent Sanskrita students of the *toles*

will win their titles, and those who used to procure them after but a superficial education will be deprived of that favour. The names and titles of the successful students and of the *toles* in which they are taught should be gazetted.

SANGBAD
PRABHAKARA,
July 4th, 1878.

25. Writing of the high estimation in which the Sanskrita language and literature were held in days gone by, and the way in which the Calcutta Sanskrit College has deteriorated into a quasi-Sanskrita and English institution, the *Sangbad Prabhakara* remarks that, while spending *lakhs* of rupees in English education, the Government seems to care but little for Sanskrita, inasmuch as there is only one Sanskrita College for 60 millions of people: and even this would not have been in existence, had not the people of the time exerted themselves towards its establishment. The recent Resolution for granting titles of proficiency in Sanskrita after examination, and payment of the fee of Rs. 2, though it is couched in sweet words, will eventually prove of no benefit to the *examinees*; for who will pay a fee when titles may be had without, from the *tole pandits*? These degrees given will not be passports to Government employ.

FAMINE.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 27th, 1878.

26. The *Bhārat Mihir* learns from the letters of its different correspondents that, at Commillah, Ishwargunge, Rungpore, Faridpore, &c., scarcity of food exists almost everywhere: not only rice, but cloth and all necessary articles have risen excessively in price: the actual state of outlying places in the *mufussal* cannot be ascertained by the condition of the principal towns and their surrounding localities. The circumstances of cultivators and labourers have improved, hence we seldom hear of death from want in Bengal. Besides the able-bodied and the successful cultivator, there is a vast number of those in the *mufussal* who have no tangible means of livelihood. We who reside in the city in ease and comfort cannot comprehend the wailings of the poor in the *mufussal*.

DACCA PRABASH,
June 30th, 1878.

27. The *Dacca Prakāsh* says that, at a village named *Dhāmraī*, near the station of *Sābhā*, a man by name *Hukumchānd Mistrī* committed suicide by hanging himself on the night of the 21st June, being unable to bear the pangs of hunger, on account of the scarcity in that part of the district. Considering the state of the country, and also the fact that the high prices of food-grains are every day rising higher, it is not to be wondered that such deaths should occur frequently.

SADHARANI,
June 30th, 1878.

28. The *Sādhārani* gives the following account from *Amtā*. Famine is imminent, and the ground lying waste and uncultivated; and added to this the tenants suffer dire persecution at the hands of their *zamindārs*. If our merciful Government and the local *zamindārs* would kindly direct their attention to dredging the two canals from *Gujārpore* to *Bānspāti*, and from *Pānpore* to *Uluberiā*, *Kēduāmāth* would increase in fertility, and the poor peasants would not have to undergo severe hardships as at present on account of the land lying waste and uncultivated.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th July. 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.